

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 027802

R 151205Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2614

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 321

E.O. 11652: AGDS - DECON JUNE 1, 1974

TAGS: MILI AO

SUBJECT: SUCCESSFUL UNITA AMBUSH

REF: LUANDA 272

1. ON MORNING APRIL 26 APPROXIMATELY 60-80 UNITA SOLDIERS
SPRING AMBUSH ON SMALL PORTUGUESE CONVOY ABOUT 200 KM SW OF
LUSO. OUT OF 19 PORTUGUES SOLDIERS IN CONVOY 17 WERE KILLED
AND 2 WOUNDED. LATTER SURVIVED BY PLAYING DEAD. PORTUGUESE
HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CATCH GROUP RESPONSIBLE.

2. COMMENT: THIS LARGEST SINGLE LOSS OF MEN BY PORTUGUESE
IN PAST 18 MONTHS AND CONTRASTS WITH NORMAL MONTHLY KIA
AVERAGE OF 8. AS IT OCCURRED DAY AFTER COUP IT VERY UNLIKELY
TWO EVENTS RELATED. PUBLIC HAS NOT YET BEEN TOLD ALTHOUGH NAMES
OF DEAD HAVE APPEARED IN ROUTINE PRESS RELEASE IN PAST FEW DAYS.
WE ARE UNABLE TO ASSESS FROM HERE REASONS FOR THIS DRAMATIC
INCREASE IN UNIT AGGRESSIVENESS AND CAPABILITY (SEE REFTTEL
AND PREVIOUS) SINCE BEGINNING OF YEAR. PRIOR TO THAT TIME,
UNITA AND PORTUGUESE (ACCORDING TO LATTER) HAD SOME KIND OF
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AGGREMENT NOT TO INTERFERE WITH EACH OTHER.

BRIGGS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, MASSACRES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA00321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740120-0078
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740546/aaaabowp.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LUANDA 272
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUCCESSFUL UNITA AMBUSH
TAGS: MILI, PINS, AO, UNITA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005